

1. (Currently Amended) An electrosurgical electrode assembly for use in an electrosurgical handpiece comprising:

(a) ~~a~~ an elongated tubular first member having a longitudinal axis and a first end and a distal flexible extendable second end and a longitudinal axis, ~~the extendable second end comprising a tubular body,~~

(b) first and second electrically-conductive wires positioned in electrically-insulating relationship in the first member with first means connected to the first member at its first end for applying to the first and second wires a bipolar electrosurgical voltage capable of transmitting electrosurgical currents along the wires,

(c) first and second spaced exposed electrodes mounted side-by-side on the tubular side of the first member at its second end and being connected respectively to the first and second wires and configured such that when the first and second exposed electrodes are energized by a bipolar electrosurgical voltage, electrosurgical currents are generated between the adjacent edges of the side-by-side electrodes on the tubular body,

(d) whereby wherein the generated electrosurgical currents are generated primarily sideways between the first and second electrodes when the electrosurgical voltage is applied to the first and second wires.

2. (Original) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spaced first and second electrodes are spaced apart longitudinally.

3. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first and second electrodes occupy only a small circumferential region of the tubular side of the first member.

4. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first and second electrodes encircle circumferentially the tubular side of the first member.

5. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first and second electrodes are nail heads protruding from the tubular side of the first member.

6. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first and second electrodes are longitudinally-spaced, the first electrode covering

substantially an end surface of the first tube tubular body.

7. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first electrodes covers substantially the whole end of the first tube tubular body.

8. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical electrode assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second electrodes are circumferentially spaced on the tubular body.

9. (Currently Amended) An electrosurgical handpiece comprising:

I) a handpiece with a handle, said handpiece comprising a gun-shaped member having a handle that when squeezed causes an inner member to be extended,

II) an electrode assembly mounted in the handle, said electrode assembly comprising:

(a) an elongated tubular first member having a longitudinal axis and a first end and a distal flexible extendable second end ~~and a longitudinal axis~~ and connected so that when the handle is squeezed, the first member is extended outwardly,

(b) first and second electrically-conductive wires positioned in electrically-insulating relationship in the first member with first means connected to the first member at its first end for applying to the first and second wires a bipolar electrosurgical voltage capable of transmitting electrosurgical currents along the wires,

(c) first and second spaced exposed electrodes mounted side-by-side on the side of the first member at its flexible second end and being connected respectively to the first and second wires, wherein electrosurgical currents are generated primarily sideways between the first and second electrodes on the flexible second end when the electrosurgical voltage is applied to the first and second wires.

10. (Original) The electrosurgical handpiece as claimed in claim 9, further comprising an irrigation duct within the first member, and apertures at the end of the first member for expelling irrigation fluid near the place where the electrosurgical currents are generated.

11. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical handpiece as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electrosurgical voltage has a frequency in excess of 1.4 MHz, the electrodes being mounted on the side of the first member such that when the tubular body is caused to assume a flexed position both the first and second exposed electrodes move jointly together with the tubular body as a unit to the flexed position.

12. (Original) The electrosurgical handpiece as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

electrosurgical voltage has a frequency between 3.8 and 4 MHz.

13. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical handpiece as claimed in claim 9, wherein the handpiece comprises an outer relatively stiff tube with a bendable end, the elongated tubular first member being electrically-insulating and being mounted inside the outer tube so as to be extendable and retractable when the handle is squeezed and release released.

14. (New) An electrosurgical electrode assembly for use in an electrosurgical handpiece comprising:

(a) a first member having a longitudinal axis and a first end and a distal second end, the second end comprising a tubular electrically-insulated body,

(b) first and second electrically-conductive wires positioned in electrically-insulating relationship in the first member with first means connected to the first member at its first end for applying to the first and second wires a bipolar electrosurgical voltage capable of transmitting electrosurgical currents along the wires,

(c) first and second spaced exposed electrodes mounted side-by-side on the tubular side of the first member at its second end and being connected respectively to the first and second wires such that when a bipolar voltage is applied to the first and second wires electrosurgical currents are generated primarily sideways between adjacent edges of the first and second electrodes.